

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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FOR POLADS

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SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - JANUARY 6

USIA FOR IOP, IBS, IPS, IEU

1. HIGHLIGHTS:

--PRAVDA COMMENTATOR YURI ZHUKOV EXTOLS THE VIRTUES OF THE CSCE FINAL ACT AND WANTS POLITICAL DETENTE FOLLOWED BY MILITARY RELAXATION;

--ON THE U.S., THE PRESS REPLAYS THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR ARTICLE ON ALLEGED U.S. SUPPORT AND TRAINING FOR "MERCENARIES" IN ANGOLA AND DISPARAGES PENTAGON BUDGET CUTS;

--IZVESTIYA CARRIES A LONG, DULL COMMENTARY ON FOREIGN POLICY COORDINATION WITHIN THE "SOCIALIST" CAMP;

--THE FIRST AUTHORITATIVE SOVIET COMMENTARY ON CHINA SINCE THE RETURN OF THE HELICOPTER CREW FAILS TO MENTION THAT EVENT AND CHARGES PEKING WITH "ANTI-SOVIET HYSTERIA" (SEPTTEL);

--LAOS AGAIN GETS HEAVY PLAY WITH STRESS ON DRV AND SOVIET SUPPORT FOR THE NEW PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC;

--A MINOR ITEM ON PAKISTAN CONTINUES A RECENT PATTERN OF LOW-KEY BUT FREQUENT REFERENCES IN SOVIET MEDIA.

2. CSCE/DETENTE. PRAVDA COMMENTATOR YURI ZHUKOV, IN THE FIRST OF A SERIES ON EUROPE AFTER HELSINKI CALLED "MATERIALIZING DETENTE," PRAISES THE CSCE SUMMIT AS A "CONSTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT" IN INTERSTATE RELATIONS IN THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND HUMANITARIAN FIELDS. ON THE LATTER POINT, HE SAYS THAT BASKET III IS "BEING IMPLEMENTED ON AN INCREASINGLY WIDE SCALE" WITH DUE RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY AND NON-INTERFERENCE. LOOKING AHEAD, ZHUKOV ENDORSES BREZHNEV'S PROPOSAL FOR TRANS-EUROPEAN CONFERENCES ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY. HE CONCLUDES THAT MILITARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DETENTE SHOULD FOLLOW AND SAYS THAT PROGRESS IN THE VIENNA MBFR TALKS "IS SINCERELY SOUGHT BY THE USSR AND THE FRATERNAL SOCIALIST COUNTRIES". MORE ABRASIVELY, ZHUKOV TOUTS SOVIET -GDR OCT 7 TREATY AS EXAMPLE OF PRINCIPLES CSCE SIGNERS HAD IN MIND.

3. U.S. THE MILITARY NEWSPAPER KRASNAYA ZVEZDA CARRIES A TASS ITEM FROM NEW YORK ON ALLEGED U.S.

INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. THE ITEM, WHICH IS CARRIED MORE BRIEFLY IN PRAVDA, CITES THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR ARTICLE CHARGING THAT THE U.S. IS TRAINING AND SENDING "MERCENARIES" TO ANGOLA, INCLUDING MILITARY AND CIA OFFICERS ON "TEMPORARY LEAVE". KRASNAYA ZVEZDA ALSO COMMENTS ON THE "RECORD PENTAGON BUDGET", CLAIMING THAT THE CUTS IMPOSED BY THE CONGRESS ARE IN SECONDARY AREAS ONLY AND THAT THE PENTAGON GOT ALL THAT IT WANTED ON PRIORITY ITEMS.

4. COMMUNIST AFFAIRS. AS IF TO TESTIFY THAT THE COMMUNIST CAMP WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN AS MEDIA PROMOTION OF DETENTE HEATS UP, PROFESSOR-HISTORIAN SH. SANAKOEV DELIVERS A LONG, SMUG LECTURE ON SOCIALIST FOREIGN POLICY COORDINATION ENTITLED "A POWERFUL FACTOR IN WORLD POLITICS" IN JAN 5 IZVESTIYA. HAPPLILY FOR SOVIET ALLIES, ALL EXAMPLES ARE IN PAST TENSE AND SANAKOEV DOES NOT CALL FOR "PERFECTING" OR "FURTHER DEVELOPING" COORDINATION FORMS. WARSAW PACT AND CEMA RECEIVE EQUAL TIME.

5. LAOS. THE CENTRAL MEDIA CARRY REPLY CABLES FROM THE NEW LAOTIAN LEADERS TO THEIR SOVIET COUNTERPARTS THANKING THEM FOR THEIR RECENT CONGRATULATIONS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC. PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA ALSO CARRY COMMENTARIES (PEGGED TO THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT) WHICH STRESS THE "PROGRESSIVE" CHANGES IN LAOS SINCE THE 1973 ACCORDS, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE SUMMER OF 1975, AND STRONGLY UNDERLINE SOVIET AND DRV SUPPORT FOR THE NEW REGIME.

6. PAKISTAN. A ROUTINE IZVESTIYA TRAVELOG ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ISLAMABAD AFTER 15 YEARS IS MOST RECENT IN A SERIES OF SMALL FAVORABLE ARTICLES ON PAKISTAN OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS. EARLIER ITEMS MENTIONED NEW LAND REFORM MEASURES AND SOME IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ECONOMIC SCENE. THE POINT--IF THERE IS ONE--MAY BE TO KEEP PEOPLE AWARE OF MOSCOW'S INTEREST IN PAKISTAN FOLLOWING PODGORNYY'S RECENT VISIT TO AFGHANISTAN AND THE REGULAR FAVORABLE COVERAGE OF INDIA. MATLOCK

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